

**TITLE: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CUSTOMIZING LOUVERED
BLINDS**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A clamping apparatus for holding a louvered blind assembly while applying a decorative graphic thereto includes a pair of rectangular frames hingedly connected together for pivoting movement between an open position for receiving slats of the blind assembly, and a closed position in which the slats of the blind assembly are clamped therebetween. A slip resistant pad material is disposed on opposing faces of the frames for providing a soft, slip resistant surface for engaging the slats. First and second pairs of brackets are positioned at first and second ends of the clamping apparatus, respectively, for providing shelves for holding portions of the blind assembly that are not clamped between the top and bottom frames. Locating holes are formed in the brackets for aligning the clamping apparatus within a machine that applies the decorative graphic. A laser is used for etching and perforating graphic images and trimming blinds to length.